

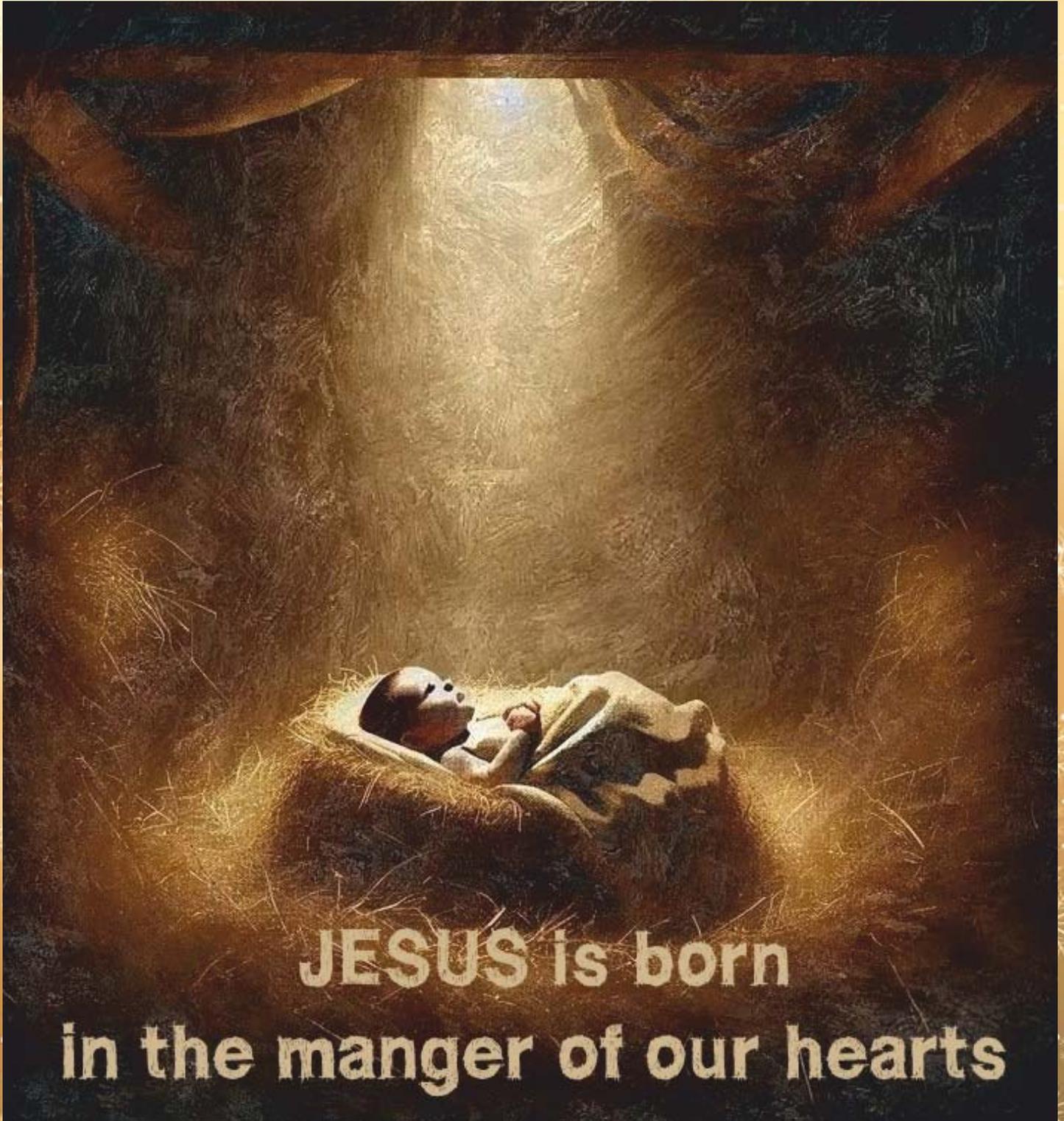
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DECEMBER 2025



# FLOCK NEWS

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CONSULTANTS	DESIGNATION	DAY	TIMINGS
<b>Dr. Sheela Vadakepat</b> MBBS	<b>Family Physician</b>	Mon, Tue Thu, Fri, Sat	} 9 am to 1 pm 10:15 am to 1 pm
		Wed	
		Mon, Wed Thur, Sat	} 7 pm to 9 pm 6:30 pm to 8 pm
		Tue, Fri	
<b>Dr. Farhan Ansari</b> MBBS, MD, DM Neurology (NIMHANS)	<b>Neurologist and Movement Disorder Specialist</b>	Tue	2 pm to 4 pm
<b>Dr. Pratik Patil</b> MBBS, MS (Orthopaedics), FRJR	<b>Orthopedic and Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon</b>	Thur Sat	3 pm to 4 pm
<b>Dr. Ashish Castellino</b> MBBS, DNB (ENT), MNAMS, FIO	<b>ENT</b>	Wed	8:30 am to 10 am
<b>Dr. Ajay Puri</b> MBBS, MS (Orthopaedics), FRJR, FISS (Mumbai)	<b>Joint Replacement &amp; Spine Surgeon (Slip Disc)</b>	Tue, Fri	8 pm to 9 pm
<b>Dr. Nileshkumar Rai</b> MBBS, MD (Medicine)	<b>General Medicine</b>	Wed	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
<b>Dr. Nikhil Rao</b> MBBS, MD, DM Nephrology (KEMH)	<b>Kidney Specialist and Transplant Physician</b>	Fri	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
<b>Dr. Amala Jose</b> MBBS, DNB (Obstetrics & Gynaecology)	<b>Obstetrician and Gynaecologist</b>	Mon, Thur	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

# Know your Parish Staff

## Tony Fernandes - Security:



Born on 26th September, he hails from Mumbai, serving as a security in Good Shepherd Church, Andheri (W) from the last 10 years. With firmness as his strength, he fulfils his role with patience and understanding.

## Rampukar - Cleaning & Maintenance:

A Native of Bihar, has been in Mumbai since the last 20 years and is employed as cleaning and maintenance personnel in Good Shepherd Church, Andheri (W).



## Richard Fernandes - Office Bearer:



Born on 18th July and brought up in Mumbai, Richard was employed with JVG group of companies and is working at the parish office since last 2 years. His patience and calm nature enable him in completing his daily tasks.

## Trevor Gomes - Sacristan:

A native of Mumbai, born on 21st Feb, is the parish sacristan from the last 4 years. Prior to Good Shepherd parish, he was a sailor.



## Dashrath Rai - Kitchen Staff:



Born and brought up in Bihar, he came to Mumbai 20 years back and has been serving as a kitchen staff in the parish since then.

## Madan Gosavi - Gardener:

Originally from Ratnagiri district, Madan has been residing in Mumbai from the last 10 years. Prior to Good Shepherd parish, he was serving as a gardener in various residential societies in Mumbai. He is working as a gardener in the parish from the last 3 years.



## FLOCK NEWS

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## O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL – TO WORSHIP, TO COMMUNION

A little boy once watched his father repair a broken chair for a poor neighbour. Curious, he asked, “Daddy, why are you fixing their chair when we need to finish our decorations?” The father smiled and said, “Because Christmas isn't just about what shines in our home—it's about the light we share with others.”

That simple exchange captures the essence of Christmas—the joy of giving, born from love, sustained by faith, and expressed in action.

As we enter this holy and festive season, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the year gone by and hope for the one ahead. It is also a fitting moment to pause, reflect, and ask: Have we lived our parish vision—“Families in Communion with God, leading to Vibrant Communities and empowering the needy”?

This year, marked by the conclusion of the Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope, has invited us to rediscover who we are as Church—a people walking together in faith, spreading the light of Christ to a world often shadowed by fear, loneliness, and uncertainty. To be pilgrims of hope means not just moving forward ourselves, but also guiding others along the way—especially those who feel lost, forgotten, or weary.

Our homes are meant to be the first chapels of faith, where prayer, forgiveness, and love shape daily life. Yet, we know how easily modern distractions—screens, schedules, and stress—can scatter hearts and silence prayer. In this Advent and Christmas season, God invites every family to return to that communion with Him. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

- ◆ Can we set aside moments for prayer together?
- ◆ Can we speak to one another with kindness, and forgive as the Lord forgives us (Colossians 3:13)?

When we pray, listen, and share as a family, we create space for Christ to dwell among us. The Holy Family of Nazareth reminds us that holiness is not about perfection, but about putting God at the centre, especially in moments of challenge.

From family prayer springs the energy of community. A parish becomes vibrant not through events or numbers, but through relationships rooted in Christ—when families support one another, when youth find purpose, when the elderly feel valued, and when the lonely are visited.

In this Jubilee Year, many of us have reached out in small yet meaningful ways—through parish ministries, neighbourhood visits, and acts of charity. Each effort, however simple, has strengthened the communion we share as the Body of Christ. As St Paul reminds us, “We are many parts, but one body” (1 Corinthians 12:12). The strength of our parish lies not in uniformity, but in unity—a unity that welcomes, includes, and serves.

Our vision leads us finally to the heart of the Gospel: love in action. “Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me” (Matthew 25:40). Christmas reminds us that God gave His greatest gift—His Son—not to the powerful or privileged, but to the poor and humble. As we exchange gifts this season, let us remember those who have little to give and much to bear: the migrant worker far from home, the widow or widower alone, the child without joy, the youth without direction. Our call as parishioners is to transform charity into communion—to not just give things, but to give ourselves. The joy of Christmas grows not by keeping, but by sharing.

As the year draws to a close, each of us can ask:

- ◆ Has my family prayed together this year?
- ◆ Have I reached out to someone in need?

- ◆ Have I helped make our parish more welcoming, forgiving, and alive in faith?
- ◆ Have I cared for the environment?
- ◆ Have I lived as a pilgrim of hope—spreading light where there was darkness, courage where there was fear?

The new year will bring fresh beginnings, but holiness always starts now—with the next word of kindness, the next prayer of gratitude, the next act of generosity.

May this Christmas be a time when our families

truly live in communion with God, leading to vibrant communities that empower and uplift the needy. May we enter the coming year with renewed hearts, walking together as pilgrims of hope, bearing Christ's joy to all. Let our lives proclaim what the angels sang that first Christmas night: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will." (Luke 2:14)

The Parish Clergy Team, the Sisters of Good Shepherd Convent and St Louis Convent wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and New Year!

- Fr Reuben Tellis

## Looking Ahead...

DATE	EVENT
Sun - 21.12.2025	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTMAS FIESTA</b> - on the Church Lawns 6.30 pm onwards
Wed - 24.12.2025	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 9.30 pm: Carol Singing on the Church Lawns 10.00 pm: Solemn Vigil Mass for Christmas
Thu - 25.12.2025	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Masses at 7.00 am (Konkani), 8.30 & 10.00 am (English), 4.00 pm (Hindi)
Sat - 27.12.2025	<b>BLESSING OF COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS STAR &amp; CRIB</b>
Sun - 28.12.2025	<b>HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH &amp; HOLY INNOCENTS</b> Blessing of Families and children at all Masses
Wed - 31.12.2025	11.00 pm: <b>YEAR-END HOLY HOUR OF THANKSGIVING</b> 12.00 am: <b>NEW YEAR &amp; SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>
Thu - 1.1.2026	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES</b> 7.00 am (Konkani), 8.30 & 10.00 am (English), 4.00 pm (Hindi), 5.30 pm (English)
Sun - 4.1.2026	<b>FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD or FEAST OF 3 KINGS</b>
Sun - 11-1.2026	<b>FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>
Sun - 18.1.2026	<b>VOCATION SUNDAY</b>
Sun - 25.1.2026	<b>WORD OF GOD SUNDAY</b>
<b>SAVE THE DATE</b>	
Sun - 1.2.2026	<b>THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION</b> Mass at 10.00 am: Chief Celebrant: Bishop Barthol Barretto of Dioc. Of Nashik
Mon - 2.2.2026	<b>FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD</b> - Day of Consecrated Life - Blessing of Candles - Pray for your priests, deacon and religious
Tue - 3.2.2026	<b>ST BLAISE</b> - Blessing of Throats at all Masses
Wed - 11.2.026	<b>FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES</b> - World Day of the Sick
Sat - 14.2.2026	<b>WORLD MARRIAGE DAY</b> - Blessing of Couples
Sun - 15.2.2026	<b>PARISH FEAST</b>
Wed - 18.2.2026	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> - Lent begins - Imposition of ashes

# Christmas Symbols



## **The Star of Bethlehem**

The Star of Bethlehem is a symbol of hope and miracles. When Jesus Christ was born, the Star of Bethlehem guided the Three Wise Men to Jesus. For Christians, it is a reminder of the hope that Jesus brings to the world.

## **Bells**

Bells are often used as Christmas symbols because they represent joy and happiness. They can also symbolize the ringing in of the New Year. Bells are often used in holiday decorations, such as wreaths and garlands. They are also a common motif in Christmas music.



## **The Nativity Scene**

The Nativity scene is a popular Christmas symbol that represents the birth of Jesus Christ. It typically features a baby Jesus in a manger, surrounded by Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and animals. The scene is meant to remind us of the humble beginnings of Christ and the true meaning of Christmas.

## **The Christmas Tree**

When we look at the Christmas tree, we are reminded of the hope and joy that the holiday brings. The evergreen tree is a symbol of life and growth, which reminds us that Christmas is a time to celebrate new beginnings. The lights on the tree represent Jesus Christ, who is the "light of the world"



## **The Christmas Wreath**

The Christmas wreath is a symbol of hope, love, and joy. It is traditionally made from evergreen branches, which represent eternal life. The wreath is often decorated with items such as berries, ribbons, and holly. It is typically hung on doors or walls as a decoration.

## **Candy Canes**

Candy canes are a popular Christmas treat that also has symbolic meaning. The shape of the candy cane is said to represent the shepherd's staff, and the red and white stripes are meant to represent the blood and purity of Jesus Christ.

Candy canes are also often used as decoration, hung on Christmas trees or in wreaths.





# Good Shepherd Church - Andheri (W)

## Eco-Advent Calendar 2025



<p><b>30th Nov: Day1</b> Take in 15 minutes of sunlight from 07 to 09 am</p>	<p><b>01st Dec: Day2</b> Do 30 mins brisk walking</p>	<p><b>02nd Dec: Day3</b> Spend a quiet "Creation Care hour" reflecting on Creation</p>	<p><b>03rd Dec: Day4</b> Spend your prayer time amidst nature</p>
<p><b>04th Dec: Day5</b> Plant a sapling in honour of the Advent spirit of hope</p>	<p><b>05th Dec: Day 6</b> Talk to neighbors/friends/colleagues about recycling plastic and e-waste</p>	<p><b>06th Dec: Day7</b> Ensuring lights and fans are switched off when not in use</p>	<p><b>07th Dec: Day8</b> Car pooling to place of work/church</p>
<p><b>08th Dec: Day9</b> No littering in public places</p>	<p><b>09th Dec: Day10</b> Participate in Mass or spend time in adoration praying for the healing of the earth</p>	<p><b>10th Dec: Day13</b> Carrying a water bottle while stepping out</p>	<p><b>11th Dec: Day12</b> Hug a tree</p> 
<p><b>12th Dec: Day13</b> De-clutter your wardrobe and discard unused items mindfully</p>	<p><b>13th Dec: Day14</b> Limit meat consumption for one or more days a week</p>	<p><b>14th Dec: Day15</b> Have a plastic-free day/ week as an Advent challenge</p>	<p><b>15th Dec: Day16</b> Create eco-friendly Christmas decorations from recycled materials</p>
<p><b>16th Dec: Day17</b> Switch off all lights only from 07:00 to 08:00 pm</p>	<p><b>17th Dec: Day18</b> Read a scripture passage on creation</p>	<p><b>18th Dec: Day19</b> Speak to people about being kind to animals</p>	<p><b>19th Dec: Day20</b> Do not waste water</p>
<p><b>20th Dec: Day21</b> While traveling educate people on "No spitting"</p>	<p><b>21st Dec: Day22</b> Have a "Zero Food Waste" challenge</p>	<p><b>22nd Dec: Day23</b> Gift a sapling</p>	<p><b>23rd Dec: Day24</b> While purchasing, look for bio-degradable items</p>
<p><b>24th Dec: Day25</b> Pen down your thoughts on how you will save the environment</p>			



# Faith, Reflection and Togetherness: A Memorable Retreat for the Confirmands

Each day brings with it a new lesson, and for us, the 20th and 21st October 2025 were two truly special days that strengthened our faith and understanding. These were the days of our Confirmands' Retreat - two days filled with prayer, learning, reflection, and joy.



The retreat began with a heartfelt prayer and a hymn, setting a peaceful tone for the sessions ahead. We learned meaningful concepts like empathy and gratitude, and reflected on the many ways we can give back to the world, the Church, and our families. After a refreshing snack break, we enjoyed a fun and engaging game of building blocks, played in pairs of guides and mentors, fostering teamwork and bonding.



We were then joined by Ms. Karen Claire D'Lima, who led a deeply moving session on the "labels" we often receive as children and youth. Through a thoughtful activity, we tied a cloth representing our emotions to a chair and wrote down the labels we wanted to let go of. On another sheet, we penned down what we truly think of ourselves reminding us to embrace our identity and worth. The day ended on a beautiful note with the composition of a song that filled the room with melodious tunes and grateful hearts.

The next day was filled with energy and inspiration as

four parish youth - Althea, Stephanie, Ashton & Glenn shared their personal testimonies. Their stories of faith, perseverance and hope reminded us that no matter what challenges we face, it is the Lord's power and strength that carry us through. Their stories also inspired our resolve to grow through involvement in the parish activities.

After a delightful lunch, we experienced one of the most touching moments of the entire retreat - a reflection on St Paul's letter to the Colossians 3: 12-17 in the context of family life followed by "the washing of the feet" by the parents of their children and the children of their parents. It was an emotional and heartfelt act that expressed love, humility, and gratitude, leaving a lasting memory for everyone present.

The Retreat concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving and a potted plant handed over to every participant and their parents to continue nurturing the faith as the plant is



nurtured. We all returned home after enjoying a sumptuous tea fellowship with snacks brought in by the parents.

It was truly an experience that will remain etched in our hearts forever a journey of faith, learning, and love.

**- Eva Pereira**

Our Confirmation batch (2025-26) had a guided retreat in the Church Extension on 20th & 21st October 2025. It was my first retreat ever, so it was a new and exciting experience.

The retreat made me rethink about my relationship with family, friends and God as a youth. What I will never forget is the afternoon session by Karen Clare D'Lima, a life coach, who spoke about 'labels' and their effects. What stayed with me most was how we can negotiate through the variety of labels we receive in life.

We learned that as youth we should not bottle our feelings but help control our emotions. This can happen if we speak about things that trouble us with people we trust. This will help handle your interaction with others better.

On the second day, we had a panel discussion consisting of some youth leaders from the parish in the morning. It was very insightful for me as I've just got into junior college and I received many practical ways to deal with life as a youth.



The afternoon was very interesting and I loved it! Our parents were asked to join us where we reflected on St Paul's letter to the Colossians followed by washing each other's feet. We were then given a potted plant each so that we would take care of it just as we take care of our faith. The fellowship that followed was a perfect end, thanks to the wide variety of snacks brought by everyone's parents intermingled with interesting conversations.

### - Shloka Colaco

Our Confirmation retreat was held in our own parish, spread across two blessed and meaningful days. Each morning we gathered with excitement, and by evening we returned home with hearts full of grace and new understanding.

We began with a warm welcome by Fr Reuben, who opened the retreat by teaching us about the Bible and the Christian values that guide our lives. His words helped us see Scripture not just as ancient stories, but as living lessons meant to shape the people we are growing into. He also helped us reflect on "the five loaves and two fish" in our own lives — the small gifts and talents we offer to God, which He can multiply in extraordinary and unexpected ways.

In the afternoon, Ms Karen Clare, a life coach brought fresh energy and clarity to the retreat. With her, we explored the importance of recognizing our identity as youth in the Church. One of the most meaningful sessions was on "Labels" — the tags society often gives us, how they affect us, and how these labels can create

hidden frustration within us. Through these reflections, we were encouraged to see ourselves not through the world's judgment, but through God's love.

The second day began with Fr Reuben teaching us about different parables from the Bible. These familiar stories felt more alive and personal as we prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. After this, we enjoyed an interactive session where we engaged more freely with our friends and even enacted Bible stories. This not only strengthened our confidence but also allowed us to understand Scripture in a creative and joyful way.

Next, four young members of our church came forward to share their testimonies with us. They spoke about how they joined the youth ministry, how they balance their busy work lives with their commitment to the Church, and the challenges and joys they experienced. Their honesty and faith were truly inspiring. Afterwards, we had one-on-one conversations with them, which made their guidance feel even more personal and encouraging.

Later in the day, our parents joined us for a special session. Together, we experienced a meaningful



moment of spiritual encounter that deepened our bond as we reflected on St Paul's letter to the Colossians 3:12-17. This was followed by the profoundly touching "washing of the feet" ceremony, where our parents washed our feet and we washed theirs — a symbol of love, humility, and service that moved everyone present. We were then given a small \*potted plant\*, representing the nurturing of our faith as we continue to grow in the Holy Spirit.

The retreat concluded with a joyful tea time, where parents brought a wonderful variety of snacks that we shared together. The laughter, conversations, and sense of community made it the perfect ending to two unforgettable days.

I would like to express gratitude to Fr Reuben, our catechism teachers and all others who made this retreat memorable.

### - Rishon Fernandes



# I'm in the Lord's Army!



You may say, the Altar Servers league is somewhat like a school, training the children in the Eucharist and the Catholic Faith. The gestures and actions carried out by the servers have a deep significance and are helpful in leading the congregation into a meaningful celebration of the Eucharist. We have begun training altar servers for the ministry of service at the altar. A total of 16 servers, boys and girls, are part of the league, right from Jr Kgstd to the 8th std. Although small in age and number, they are not easily intimidated but put up a brave face while standing on the altar. Many of the congregations

have appreciated these young servers for their dedication to this ministry.

For some of us who have been Altar Servers in our younger days, we often reminisce about serving and being so close to the Lord at the altar. Although it felt like we were assisting the Priest, it was really the Lord who was working silently in our lives, disciplining us and building a strong foundation.

Balancing this ministry is not easy with current school life, extracurricular activities. The



League meets once a month every last Sunday, for practice and fellowship. Little as they are, sometimes it can be hard to stand steady, stay awake or remember the things to do at the right time. When asked what made them want to join the ASL, many shared they

wanted to be close to Jesus on the altar and help the Priests. A child shared, the ringing of the bell is one of the best things he likes to do. He can feel the vibration of the



bell move through his body, which has a positive vibe to it. For all of them standing and facing an audience is not easy. They get worried about how they may come across if they falter in any way. As time goes, we can see them gain more agency on the Altar and carry out the task with ease



and perfection. To appreciate those children who have been serving consistently, we recently initiated the Best Server of the Month. We are hoping for more children to come forward and be part of this league. Little by little we aim to bring more structure to this ministry and have received good support from the Priests, the Parents and our Sacristan Trevor. Although they may not be actual soldiers fighting the enemy with weapons, yet they are overcoming hurdles (sleep/laziness/fidgetiness) that hamper them from serving fervently and slowly gaining victory over these habits. You can say they're in the Lord's Army.....

- Ruvina Dias

# MOM : THE UNSUNG HERO



Friends, I am sharing a deeply moving story of a middle-class family that touched my heart. Though it begins in sadness, it ends beautifully at Christmas.

Jamie, 22, had just completed his bachelor's degree in Computer Science and dreamed of pursuing his master's at Stanford University in the United States. Ambitious and focused solely on his future, he rarely thought beyond his own goals. His parents, John and Ruth, worked tirelessly and took loans to support his education abroad, sacrificing every comfort to help him achieve his dream. While Jamie immersed himself in his studies, tragedy struck back home. John, aged fifty-five, was hit by a speeding truck while crossing the road. He suffered a severe spinal injury that left him paralyzed. After multiple surgeries and a month in the ICU, he was discharged, but at an enormous financial cost. Every rupee saved over the years vanished into medical bills. Ruth chose not to tell Jamie, fearing it would affect his studies.

John's condition soon worsened, and one night he breathed his last in Ruth's arms. Heartbroken, she called Jamie to share the news. Focused on his exams, he responded coldly that he could not come home and hung up. Ruth silently wept over her husband's lifeless body. Without money for the funeral, she borrowed funds from a neighbour to arrange an ambulance. Unable to afford an undertaker, she buried John with a simple shroud and a heavy heart.

A month later, Jamie returned home. Ruth embraced him, shared everything that had happened, and felt relieved when he promised to take her with him permanently to California. He sold the house, placed the money into his own account, and arranged visas and tickets. Soon, mother and son stood at the airport ready to leave for their new life. Jamie asked Ruth to wait in the lounge with her small bag while he checked in the luggage. She waited anxiously for over an hour, watching the airport empty as the final boarding announcement echoed. A staff member noticed her distress and checked the flight list. With sadness, she informed Ruth that Jamie had already boarded, and the plane had departed ten minutes earlier.

Ruth stood frozen, tears flowing silently. When she finally spoke, she whispered, "Why did you do this to me?" Even in her grief, she prayed for his safety. The staff informed her that her ticket and visa were still valid and she could board another flight. Ruth replied gently, "My son no

longer needs extra baggage in his life," and walked out of the airport—alone and shattered. With nowhere to go, she found refuge in an old age home, where she spent her days helping the Sisters and serving the residents.

Two months later, a church group visited the home. Among them was Philip, Jamie's friend, who recognized Ruth and gently asked how she had come there. With dignity and pain, she said she had lost her son to the material world but wished him happiness. Philip was moved to tears. Unable to adopt her legally, he requested to take her home. On Christmas Eve, he introduced Ruth to his family as their new grandmother—their Christmas gift. Tears of joy filled her eyes as she whispered before the crib, "Thank you, Jesus. You have been very kind to me." Love had found her again—not through blood, but through compassion.

Moral: A mother's heart embodies sacrifice, forgiveness, and unconditional love. This Christmas, cherish your parents. Never abandon them—because what you sow, you shall surely reap.

- Alphonso Fernandes

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## Confirmation Retreat

Four confirmation students were unable to attend the retreat conducted by Fr Reuben in the parish. We are grateful to the animators for checking on where there would be a retreat available, since the Confirmation Retreat is one of the requirements in our journey of preparation for the Sacrament. We joined the confirmands of the Holy Family Church (Chakala) who had a one day retreat in Karjat.

After the breakfast, we had Praise and Worship followed by the sessions making us aware of how we are special children of God, how obstacles can come between us and God, how we need to seek God's will in our life, the challenges we face and how to overcome them. The Eucharistic celebration was followed by lunch.

We then continued the session on how fear exists through the media and how we need to renew our minds reflecting on Romans 12:1-3. After the tea-break we began our return journey home. We enjoyed the retreat and made new friends.

- Noriska Remedios



# BOMBAY CATHOLIC SABHA

The Good Shepherd Unit of the Bombay Catholic Sabha continued its tradition of fostering talent, unity, and social responsibility through two initiatives that reflected the vibrancy and commitment of our parish community. The drawing competition held on 21st September 2025 showcased the creativity of our young parishioners, drawing an impressive participation of 45 children across three age groups. With great enthusiasm, the young artists expressed their imagination and skill on themes thoughtfully assigned to them. Their works were evaluated by two budding Fine Arts graduates from our parish youth – Ms. Vrinda Shirke and Ms. Stephanie Miranda whose artistic insight and guidance added tremendous value to the event. The standard of artwork was so high that selecting winners proved to be a challenge, echoing the judges' appreciation of the budding talent within our parish. Snacks were served to all present. Every participant received drawing materials and a Certificate of Participation, with prizes awarded to the winners. The art work displayed on the church notice board was admired by parishioners and stood as a testament to the joy and creativity the event inspired.



While encouraging young minds in the parish, the Bombay Catholic Sabha also demonstrated its commitment to civic engagement and constitutional values through a prayerful

and peaceful silent protest on 9th November 2025. Parishioners including many senior citizens, gathered with dignity and unity outside the church premises to express their deep concern over the proposed Maharashtra "Freedom of Religion" Bill. Holding peaceful banners and standing together in silent reflection, around 30 citizens appealed to the Chief Minister to reconsider the Bill, emphasising the importance of safeguarding freedom, harmony, and the rights guaranteed to every individual. The gathering remained disciplined, spiritual, purposeful and an inspiring display of the community's willingness to stand for justice and the common good.

These initiatives highlight the Bombay Catholic Sabha's commitment to holistic parish life, encouraging talent, promoting awareness and upholding values rooted in faith. Along with such events, the BCS remains active in voter education, social outreach, civic awareness



programmes, youth and senior citizen engagement and various welfare initiatives that strengthen the fabric of our parish community. Parishioners are warmly invited to join the Bombay Catholic Sabha and contribute to its mission of service, leadership and community empowerment. For further information or membership enquiries, please contact Mr Terence Gonsalves, Chairman of the Good Shepherd Unit of the Bombay Catholic Sabha.

**- Terence Gonsalves**

## SVP Feast Day

On 27th September 2025, the SVP members celebrated the feast of St Vincent de Paul, our patron saint, with a Holy Eucharist at 7.00 pm followed by a get-together along with the adopted and aided families.

The program began with the SVP members reciting the Vincentian prayer. Kamla compered the programme. Everyone was welcomed and a brief talk was given by our Spiritual Director - Dn Fredrick Correa, whilst Dora handled the games and spot prizes.



We ensured that each and every member got a gift for the different games that were played. Dn Fredrick Correa presented his innovative on-the-spot games and dance session, which was enjoyed by all. Additionally, we celebrated the birthday of one of our adopted members. Angelica's delicious snack boxes were given to each and every member present. Each adopted family received a gift and a hamper of food-grains offered by our parishioners, as they departed happy and joyful.

**- Nimia D'Costa**

# Eucharist Centered Leadership



On Wednesday, 22nd October 2025, saw around 50 or more of our parishioners belonging to the SCCs, PPC, cells and associations and the ministries of the parish, attend an awesome Eucharist Centred Leadership Session organized and conducted by our very own Fr Reuben Tellis. The sequence of events enumerated in the programme, was so well thought of to give a gist of what we experienced, apart from Father's own flair for preaching the Word.

The very essence of the topic "Eucharist Centred Leadership" gave us more than what our understanding was. In the context of the Eucharist, we saw our leadership as:

- Communion rather than Control,
- Service rather than Status, and
- Sacrifice rather than Self-interest.

That was for starters, then it went on to hit home the main point that it draws from the Eucharist as the "Source and Summit" of Christian life and leadership.

Believe me, I sincerely wish there were many more present to benefit from these amazing Biblical sessions of Fr Reuben. As God says in Acts 2:17: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams". Do not let go of these God given opportunities my friends.

The inspiring takeaways were many but to name a few...

- True authority is sacramental - it mirrors Christ who leads by kneeling, not by controlling.
- Eucharist Centred Leadership sends us out to transform the world, to make a difference in all areas with justice and mercy.

This was followed by four points for reflection which we can all think about - the main one being name one "Eucharistic practice" which we can emulate as leaders ie listening ears, sharing spiritual experiences, forgiving/mentoring.

Keeping the above in mind, we understood the four sacred spaces in the Church i.e. The Lectern, Altar, Sanctuary and Tabernacle as important points of reflection for our leadership. We can also form our own spaces/ideas/feelings as to what it entails. For me the last i.e. 'Be the Living Tabernacle' holds utmost and immense power and meaning.

To keep Christ Jesus in our Hearts! And radiate HIM to others.

As expected, it was so brilliant with Fr Reuben's amazing knowledge not just of our faith but also certain Hindu mythological connotations in reference to various albeit connections to Christianity. And also putting to rest many

of our humble misconceptions, with regard to customs, traditions and rituals even in our own Catholic sphere of thinking. 3 hours well spent, inspiring and motivating. He also educated us in many aspects of the Bible. We now look forward to such special events which we requested Fr Reuben to arrange for us periodically.

Thank you Fr Reuben and kudos as usual to all that you undertake under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are truly blessed and privileged as our God is an awesome God who supplies all our spiritual food and nourishment for our souls.

- Ursula Cardozo

## Andheri Deanery Tele Games

On a bright and pleasant Wednesday, 12th November 2025, an excited group of 6 seniors from Good Shepherd Parish all dressed in white tops and blue denims participated in the Deanery Tele games organized by St John the Evangelist Church, Marol.



The well-planned event was a delightful mix of games, dance and fellowship. Upon arrival, the teams, 8 in number, were warmly welcomed by the parish priest Fr Anthony Fernandes and the core team of St

John the Evangelist Church. Refreshments were served and a very talented compere Mr Darryl explained the rules and intricacies of the games to the participants. The games included among many others - some cup- games and changing shirts which were quite a novelty and kept everyone engaged and excited.

The competitive games were followed by a fun filled 'Follow the Leader' dance competition where everyone joined in most enthusiastically. The participants had a blast, thanks to the careful planning and unstinted efforts of the organizers.

Congratulating wishes went out to Sacred Heart Parish which was the winner of the competition with the maximum points. The event brought out the child in the seniors and reaffirmed that age is no bar for fun and games.

- Fredrick V. Franks



# A Light Shines in the Darkness!

Our World today has changed in many ways, while we have advanced and progressed in a lot of areas that support mankind, we have also seen a decline in our respect for human life. War, violence, and immortality have become the “new normal”. Politeness, kindness, and modesty have been considered “boring”. While celebrating the individuality of a person is good, we seem to become more and more absorbed in ourselves and are losing touch with reality.



With the world, the Church also had to evolve in its approach; however, her actions are still governed by Christ's teachings. Still, evidently, it has become a challenge for the Church to make the daily engagements more appealing in comparison to the ever tempting allure of the world. Most of us know that the fate of the world and where it is heading depends on the present and future generations. What we do now will show its impact later, as the saying goes, a fruit is recognized by its tree and the tree by its roots. These roots are the Church, the Family, the Teachers, the Neighbors, and the Community at large.



In a small way, the Church continues to be a co-parent along with the families and does her bit to nurture these fruits (children) through various events and ministries. The Vacation Bible Joy is part of one such event that has been organized and held for the Sunday School Children across all parishes in Mumbai. It has been one of the most looked-forward-to

activities by the children and their families. Each year, the themes and engagement activities are planned carefully, keeping in mind the current needs. This year, the theme identified was “Choosing Peace in a Troubled World”.

In these past years, the world has been hit by so many



natural and manmade disasters, keeping us in fear and uncertainty about the future. Hence, the theme made it so apt for our children and families to reflect and apply in our daily lives. The six days of the VBJ were infused with the Bible and fun activities. Bible characters coming alive in short films, the verse for the day, puzzles, crosswords, fun games, and action songs.

Each day values of Humility, Forgiveness, Mercy and Love were introduced, which became the guiding principles to the path of Peace. The Sunday School



teachers broke down these concepts into the everyday life experiences faced by the children at school, at home and in their neighborhoods. The children also got to see how these values were practiced through the examples of Barnabas, Moses, Abigail, Joseph who chose family and peace over violence, power, greed, and self gratification.

The children were eager to share situations they faced in school and how they had responded. In some cases, they were candid about making choices for self, in some situations they were happy they chose God's way. The discussions and sharings, helped the children understand that we CAN control the choices we make with God's Help. And it is in choosing God's way, one can find peace and reap a reward for it in time.





On the final day of the program, being All Saints Day, the children were asked to come dressed as Saint. The Saints have also faced life situations where they have had to make tough choices. Although their choices may not have been all rosy for them, we all know, they were rewarded with Sainthood. It was wonderful to see the children in the Saint's costumes and talking confidently about them and what

they did. One child who had come dressed up as St Anne (the mother of Mary) shared that she wants to be a Gynaecologist and help women with their problems, encouraging them not to give up and trust in God. Her testimony reinforced the thought of nurturing children now for the future of all mankind.



Through all these inspiring narratives in these days, Jesus' example shines above all else, as we near Advent season, we are reminded of our Savior, meek and mild, who chose to go through severe punishment and ultimately die for a World that is often ungrateful and continues sinning. Jesus' resurrection resonated, our Belief that despite all the negativity around us, Good can never be overcome by evil. Through these little efforts and working together with the Church, the Families and the Community we can make it right today for a better tomorrow. We would also like to thank all those who contributed in whatever way to make the program a success. We know these six days have not only been reflective learning and fun for our children, but there is going to be a change in the choices they make. Children as they are, they probably may need to be guided and reminded of it now and again. As adults, when the time comes, can we be BRAVE to CHOOSE PEACE over SELF and do our bit to let the Light continue to shine through the Darkness.



- Ruvina Dias

## Celebrating St Cecilia's Feast: A Symphony of Faith and Harmony



On 22nd November, our parish came alive with music and joy as we celebrated the feast of St Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians. This special occasion brought together voices from the Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Joyful Voices (Saturday 7.00 pm) and the Konkani Choir, blending in perfect harmony to create an atmosphere of praise and thanksgiving.



Under the skilled guidance of Maria, and with the graceful keyboard accompaniment of Benedict (Benny), the melodies soared, filling hearts with peace and devotion. Their combined effort transformed the liturgy into a truly uplifting experience, reminding us of the beauty of music as a form of prayer. Adding to the spiritual richness of the celebration, Fr Reuben presided over the Mass with warmth and reverence, making it a memorable event for all present.

The festivities didn't end there! All choirs and cantors joined in fun-filled games and activities organised by our spiritual director - Fr Reuben, fostering fellowship and joy among participants. It was a day that beautifully combined faith, music, and community spirit—a true tribute to St Cecilia and her legacy.

- Maria & Helengale



# Women's Cell

On 28th September at 11:00 am, the Women's Cell celebrated a get-together to foster fellowship in the community.

Fr Anil graced the occasion with an opening speech, highlighting the invaluable role women play in the church and society. He commended their courage, grace and contributions to the community.



This was followed by the Women's Anthem and Prayer, led by our Spiritual Director - Dn Fredrick. He also felicitated our senior members including Barbara, who was introduced by Pamela as the longest serving member of the Women's Cell.



Pamela gave an opening speech on the Women's Cell's activities. Our Women's Cell is here to empower women and safeguard their rights. We have various activities and training sessions planned at the deanery level, and we are committed to addressing issues faced by women.

Kamla compered the event and kept the crowd entertained with jokes and games. We had a fun quiz on the saints, featuring Queen of Sheba, and even a game where Barbara was crowned the Queen of Sheba,



Music filled the air, making the event truly enjoyable. About sixty-one ladies attended and the energy was palpable. There was excellent participation with spot prizes, take-away gifts and keychains being distributed. As we wrapped up, snack boxes were given to all, marking two hours of fun and laughter. The vote of thanks was extended by Sylvia.

## Naturopathy Course:

We were privileged to have Fr Rocky Banz share his expertise with us on Sunday, 16th November in our parish. His enlightening and inspiring talk on Naturopathy was truly appreciated by all who attended. The presentation was beautifully complemented by Mrs.



Sharon Rodrigues, making it engaging and informative, with valuable takeaways for daily life.

The overwhelming response from participants reflects the significance of the message he shared. We are grateful for the time he took to impart his

knowledge, and we are confident that his words will have a lasting impact on our community.



It was a memorable and enriching experience, and we thank him for making it possible.

## Legal Awareness for Women:

The Women's Cell of Good Shepherd Church organized a workshop on Legal Awareness for Women, on Sunday, 30th November titled "Strength in Rights". The session aimed to educate and equip women with essential knowledge of their legal rights. It was presented by Advocate Sharon Rodrigues of the High Court. The focus was on empowering women with legal awareness. It was an interactive session to address queries and concerns regarding the same. The workshop was part of the Women's Cell's initiative to empower women and promote awareness of their rights.

- Inputs from the Women's team

# Field-Trip: Visit to Holy Family Church, Chakala



The Green Cell members - Stephanie, Poonam and Jasmine visited Holy Family Church, Chakala, on Saturday, 11th October 2025 to learn and gain knowledge about their eco-friendly practices. Pramila and Conceicao from Holy Family parish - Green cell team ( known as Eco Pals) greeted us and accompanied us for the visit.



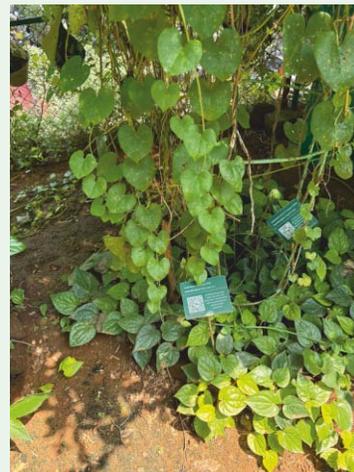
The parish is located in one of the busiest areas of Mumbai, yet the moment we entered the campus, it felt utterly peaceful. The church compound is full of trees, plants and shaded pathways, which makes the place feel like a small green oasis in the middle of the city.

We first explored their Eco-Zone, a dedicated area where different plants, herbs, shrubs and small trees are grown. This space is used to teach children and adults about nature and caring for the earth. We even took part in a short “Hug a Tree” moment, which helped us slow down and connect with the environment around us.



During the visit, we observed how the parish has made 'Caring for Creation' a part of daily life. The entire campus is a No-Plastic Zone; The church no longer uses disposable cups, plates or plastic bags. Instead, they use steel plates and cups for gatherings and they even give out reusable cloth bags.

The next stop was at their composting pit and system. All the wet waste from the kitchen and fallen leaves from the grounds are put into large compost drums. After a few weeks, this turns into natural manure, which is then used to enrich the plants and trees on the campus. This helps the church reduce waste and keep the soil healthy. The church also completely runs on solar energy, which helps reduce electricity usage.



On completion with the church premises, we walked into 'Vinayalaya Retreat House', which is behind the church. The place has a beautiful green sanctuary filled with a wide variety of trees, plants, and natural pathways. One of the best weekend getaways to relax, rewind, rejuvenate amidst nature and an apt

environment for all faith related recollections , retreats and workshops.

I was amazed and inspired on learning how the parish connects all these efforts with faith. They believe that caring for the environment is a responsibility given by God and they try to live it out through small and consistent actions.

The field trip was truly inspiring and enlightening and showed us how even simple steps can make a big difference when a community works together.

**- Stephanie Miranda**



# Glimpses of Church Events

## Portrait & Statue - St Carlo Acutis



## Statue of Jesus



## Feast of Christ the King



# Zone 3 - Unit 5

## St Jude Community



### *Journey of Faith*

#### **Jubilee Cross:**



In a beautiful display of unity and devotion, the Jubilee Cross travelled through the homes of St Jude's Community over four days, touching 14 families and filling hearts with prayerful joy. What could have seemed like a logistical challenge became a testament to cooperation, understanding and sincere faith.

Each family welcomed the Cross with gratitude, embracing moments of prayer, reflection and blessings. The movement from home to home became more than a schedule, it became a shared spiritual journey that strengthened community bonds.



A special highlight was when the Cross reached the home of Glynis and Kevin Saldanha during their daughter's wedding preparations. The community agreed to let the Cross remain there for an entire day, allowing relatives and friends to venerate it – a meaningful reminder that faith grows when shared.



Across all homes, joy and peace were evident. One memorable moment included Anita and Gordon Rodrick's pet cat, Popcorn, who sat prayerfully through the rosary, bringing smiles and warmth.

The journey of the Jubilee Cross was truly a blessing – uniting hearts, deepening faith, and celebrating fellowship. May God continue to guide and protect our community and keep us strong in love and prayer.

**- Franchelle Raj**

#### **Marian Visitation - October Rosary:**



During the Month of the Holy Rosary, St Jude's Community joyfully welcomed Our Lady of Vailankanni from 1st to 7th October. In the midst of daily busyness, these seven days

offered a precious pause—a time to slow down, reflect, and unite as one family in prayer. Each evening, Our Lady's statue was carried into a different home, where families gathered to pray the Rosary, lifting petitions for the Holy Father, our community, families, peace, and personal intentions. These moments brought calm, comfort, and shared strength from united faith.

In all 14 homes, the joy was palpable. Ordinary living rooms became chapels, strengthening faith and community bonds. Special prayers were offered for a senior member



seriously ill and needing a pacemaker; with God's grace, his health showed improvement.



After the Rosary, fellowship and warm conversations enriched community life. As the week ended, we bid farewell to Our Lady with grateful hearts, thankful for

the 'blessings' and 'hope' she brought. We look forward to welcoming Our Lady again next year.

**- Nicola Arunasalam**



## Zone 3 - Unit 2

# St Vincent de Paul Community

### The Power of the Rosary: A Circle of Faith & Fellowship



The energy that settles and is felt when a rosary begins is beyond words. One voice leads, others follow and soon the rhythm of prayer takes over. Beads slip through fingers, eyes close and hearts open. It's in that quiet rhythm that we, St Vincent de Paul Community, find a quiet sense of peace. The Rosary, for us, is a living dialogue between us and God. Every "Hail Mary" feels like an inhalation of grace and an exhalation of worry.

As we pray together, grace multiplies. It becomes a shared heartbeat. In a time when the world feels divided and hurried, the rosary offers us something simple and profound: unity in stillness.

### Community Rosaries: Strength in Togetherness:



Today, as the world grows louder and faith can sometimes feel like a private, personal struggle, community prayer has become essential. It reminds us that we are never walking this path alone. Each person who joins, brings their own hopes, fears, gratitude and somehow, by the end of the rosary, all those separate threads weave into one beautiful tapestry of faith.



There's healing in that togetherness. There's comfort in knowing that others are praying alongside you, holding your intentions in their hearts, even if they don't know them by name.



### Joy Beyond Prayer:

The last day of the rosary - the room was filled with laughter, games and a light moment bonding with each other.



### Living the Rosary Every Day:

The rosary doesn't end with the final "Amen." Each mystery we meditate on mirrors the mystery of our own lives: moments of joy, sorrow, glory and hope. At St Vincent de Paul Community, we've come to see the rosary as a rhythm of living- A reminder that every challenge can be lifted in prayer and every blessing can be magnified through gratitude.

**- Inputs from Pooja Gupta & Nisha Samson**

## Visit to the Mount:



On 5th November, our community visited the Basilica of Mount Mary where we prayed the rosary together in thanksgiving and placed our intentions at the feet of our Mother. The feeling was overwhelming. The bonus was a



visit to the Pranam Maria exhibition opposite the shrine. We took a 15-minute tour. It was breathtaking to see the life like statues depicting the mysteries of the Rosary. Thereafter we assembled to have light refreshments and returned home feeling blessed. Looking forward to more outings with the community members.

- Nisha Samson

## Visit to the House of Charity:

On 5th December, our unit visited House of Charity at Versova. Sr Esther, sister-in-charge gave us a list of requirements needed for the residents. Our unit members generously contributed towards our outreach activity which helped us purchase the requirements needed. Peter, a volunteer took us around the home introducing us to 30 residents. A few of them made

conversation with us and we were greeted with warm smiles. It was heart warming to see the volunteers, who give of their time to cook, to clean, to do paper work, feed them with love and care and spend time with them. A special mention of one of our parishioners Claudelle



who volunteers there everyday. We too helped out by feeding a few of them. God bless all those who care for the residents at The House of Charity. As we left, there was a feeling of sadness, but we were happy that as a community, we could contribute in a small way towards the home.

- Liza Dantes



## Zone 1 - Unit 3

# Mother Teresa Community

### Pranam Maria : A walk through the BIBLE & Beyond!

On 11th October, a few of from the parish decided to spend our Saturday afternoon doing something a little different from the usual weekend routines. Thanks to Fr Reuben Tellis, who first floated the idea, and our ever-efficient animators Simone Gonsalves, Leah D'Souza and Charmaine Vaz, about eighteen of us finally made our way across to the Pranam Maria Faith Experience, located right opposite Mount Mary Church.



Now, we've all seen exhibitions and religious displays before, but this one was something else. From the moment we stepped in, it felt like the Bible had come alive. The entire experience lasted around fifty minutes, but honestly, it could've been half a day and no one would have noticed. There was something deeply moving about watching familiar moments from Scripture take on such life not in a distant, museum way, but in a way that draws you right in.

One of our group members, Mariatta, said afterwards that seeing the scene of Jesus being scourged at the pillar really touched her heart — she felt His love for us in that moment. Leah described the whole exhibition as “exceptional”, while Chriselle, who always has a way with words, called it a beautiful ode to Our Lady. She said, “Each tableau, with its light and sound, compels us to reflect on the mysteries of the Rosary and on Mother Mary's role in the greatest love story ever told.” She also quoted a line from the narration that stayed



with many of us: “She intercedes with her Son to turn the waters of our lives into the wine of eternal life.” That one line seemed to sum up the whole experience.

Charmaine shared that what struck her most was how the journey connected the Old and New Testaments, showing how relevant those stories still are in our everyday lives. And honestly, she's right. There was a clear line running through it all — from Genesis to the Gospels and somehow it felt personal, like we were part of the story being told.



Of course, it wasn't all solemn silence. There were smiles, quiet nods, and even a few “wow” moments as the lights changed and the story unfolded. The seniors prayed softly along, and the youngsters, surprisingly, were completely absorbed. Aunty Teresa summed it up in her own style — “full paisa vasool!” — and we couldn't have agreed more.

Overall, the Pranam Maria Faith Experience is something every Catholic and honestly, even those from other faiths should try at least once. It's immersive, emotional, and beautifully executed. You walk out not just informed, but transformed. If I had to describe it in one line, I'd say it's part pilgrimage, part art show, part gentle workout and wholly worth it. Go once, and you'll probably want to go again and again...

As for me, I left feeling grateful for the story, for the company, and for the reminder that faith doesn't always live in grand cathedrals; sometimes, it's right across the street, waiting quietly to be rediscovered.

- Sheldon Aranjo

## Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

### Mission Sunday:

Our Mission Sunday celebration on 26th October was a sweet success! The community came together to whip up delicious treats, which were sold at the breakfast stall. The proceeds will support our missionaries and



their work. Kudos to everyone who contributed and supported this initiative.

### Rosary:

On 31st October, we gathered for a lovely evening of prayer and fellowship at the Grotto of Good Shepherd



Convent. The rosary prayer was a beautiful way to reflect on our faith and connect with one another. The evening was filled with games, yummy dinner, and warm company.

### Bible Reflection:

We joyfully gathered for our second Bible reflection on 1st November, led by Fr Reuben Tellis. The topic, 'Oh When the Saints go Marching in', was brought to life through an engaging group game, insightful reflections, and interactive discussions. Fr Reuben beautifully



shared how ordinary people like us are called to be saints, doing small yet significant things for our families and communities.

On behalf of the community, here's wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2026! May we continue to grow in faith and love for God and one another."

- Simone Gonsalves

## Zone 4 - Unit 2

# St Christopher Community



The community members actively participated in various spiritual initiatives and social activities this year. Members made beautiful cards for Parents' Day on 6th July. We conducted a prayer service on 18th July for a First Holy Communicant with all community members praying together. On 3rd September, we presented a meaningful skit during the Nativity Novena with the theme "Mary's love and faith motivate us to serve with

compassion." Throughout the month of October, rosaries recited in homes strengthened unity and peace. We also organized a stall on Mission Sunday which was successful. Community members also attended workshops by Fr Reuben Tellis and participated in Christ the King adoration on 23rd November.

- Paul Rodrigues



# Zone 2 - Unit 7

## Alphonsa Community

### Visit to Home for Aged:



Alphonsaites visited the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged, where we had the opportunity to interact with the residents and witness their unique talents. The visit was filled with joy and camaraderie, leaving us with a deep sense of satisfaction and happiness.

We recently concluded a rosary recitation series at members' homes, fostering a sense of bonding and prayerful spirit among the unit family. The final session was held at the Miraculous Cross, which was particularly poignant. Our Spiritual Director - Sr Philomena led the prayer and offered a special blessing for members Tony and Priscilla, commemorating their remarkable 48 years of marriage.



### Children's Day:

The community celebrated Children's Day with underprivileged children from Good Shepherd Convent on 13th November 2025. Around 40 children joined us for a fun-filled morning, which began with a prayer recitation and the singing of the National Anthem. The children were enthusiastic and lively, thoroughly enjoying games like passing the parcel and dance etc. Our community's silent donors provided delicious snacks and takeaways. Sr Philomena led a heartfelt prayer before we bid farewell from the community. It was a truly enlightening and refreshing experience for all of us from the community, and we are grateful for the beautiful memories created during our time together.

- Priscilla DSouza

# Zone 4 - Unit 1

## Maria Goretti Community



### Annual Rosary:

The community celebrated its Annual Rosary in a profoundly, prayerful and grace-filled manner on 31st October 2025. The gathering took place at 8:00 pm on the Refugee Floor of the Stadium View Building in Azad Nagar, where about 30 family representatives, including several non-Catholic neighbours came together in a beautiful display of unity and devotion. This solemn event marked the culmination of a month long spiritual journey in honour of Mother Mary, during which the blessed statue of Our Lady was lovingly welcomed into different homes each evening. Throughout October, families gathered in fellowship to pray the Holy Rosary, deepening faith and strengthening bonds within the community.

The atmosphere of the final Rosary was serene and deeply reflective. Community members placed their



written intentions into a special petition box, symbolising their trust in the intercession of Our Lady. These intentions were later reverently placed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Vailankanni in Irla. Special prayers were offered for families, the sick, the elderly, and those in need of comfort and blessings. The congregation's heartfelt responses and devotion lent an aura of spiritual warmth, making the evening truly uplifting and grace-filled.

Following the rosary, the community rejoiced in a joyful time of fellowship. Snacks and dinner were served, and engaging games were organised to foster camaraderie and strengthen the spirit of togetherness. As a token of love and remembrance, each family received a beautifully crafted steel crucifix. The evening was a perfect blend of prayer, unity, and celebration—a spirit-

filled and memorable occasion that highlighted the strong faith and vibrant fellowship.

- **Shania Gonsalves**

### Annual Thanksgiving Mass:

On 27th November 2025 the community gathered for its much awaited Annual Thanksgiving Mass, a radiant evening overflowing with gratitude, warmth, and spiritual togetherness. The Eucharistic celebration, led by the our Spiritual Director Fr Reuben Tellis, was profoundly holy, uplifting, and spiritually enriching, drawing every heart into a deep sense of thanksgiving. The atmosphere glowed with devotion as hymns, prayers, and unity created a truly soul-stirring experience.

Fr Reuben delivered a heart-touching and thought-provoking homily, weaving together reflections of faith, gratitude, and community life with remarkable depth. His words resonated powerfully, inspiring introspection and renewed commitment to living a life rooted in love and service. A deeply moving moment followed when Fr Reuben personally prayed over and blessed each community member, leaving many visibly touched and spiritually strengthened. The gesture added an intimate and unforgettable grace to the celebration.



The evening concluded with a cheerful and joy-filled fellowship, bringing neighbours and friends together in a spirit of unity. Laughter, warm conversations, and a sense of belonging filled the air as everyone enjoyed delightful snacks and a delicious dinner. The celebration stood out as a vibrant, memorable, and grace-filled milestone in the community's journey, leaving hearts full and spirits renewed.

- **Carol Gonsalves**



## Zone 3 - Unit 3

# Little Flower Community

### Annual Thanksgiving Mass:

We celebrated our Annual Mass on 1st October 2025 at



7.30 pm at cross gate community hall. Our Spiritual Director Fr Reuben celebrated the Holy Eucharist. His homily was truly enriching and encouraging, highlighting the spirit of thanksgiving, unity and renewal. He

spoke of enduring values of faith, service and compassion through prayer, scriptures and hymns. There was a gathering of 47 members who thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship, prayer, quiz games & delicious



dinner. The annual mass is a time to recognise the dedication of those who contribute to the life of our parish. Fr Reuben introduced and acknowledged the PPC member and animators and requested more parishioners to join the team of committed animators.

### Mission Sunday:



Our community stall was an overwhelming success! By 10.00 am, we had almost sold everything. All the efforts invested by the team were truly worth it.

This achievement perfectly reflects the vibrant community spirit of Mission Sunday. It was a true demonstration of teamwork fuelled by high spirits and dedication. A massive thank you to our incredible team: Sheila, Theresa, Ursula and Florinda for their unwavering support, and to Gene for her generous contribution towards this noble cause. Every small effort put in by each person combined wonderfully to create this success. We are incredibly grateful for the fulfilment

this day brought and are already committed to making it even bigger and better next time.

### Grandparents Day:



The coordinators alongwith the animators visited the grandparents belonging to our unit.

We recited a prayer and gave them a memento as a remembrance.



They were delighted to receive the gifts from us, and thanked us for our visit and for spending time with them.

I am very grateful to all my animators for their support and participation, without which it would not have been possible. A special thank you to Ursula, Florinda, Sheila and Laretta for being my backbone.



We pray that our community be blessed by the powerful intercession of St Joachim & St Ann as we continue to support one another.

- **Celine Saldanha**

# Zone 4 - Unit 2

## St Ambrose Community



### Rosary:



"Family To Family" rosary events are typically organized as a "Family Rosary Crusade" or "Living Rosary" movement, involving coordination between different families to pray the Rosary with a shared intention. This year we had 3 cluster groups and 35 families opted to pick the

statue from the respective families and take it devoutly to their homes.

The commitment to a family rosary only works if the whole family is together and thus they chose their dates for praying with our Mother. There were two statues visiting the homes so that all families could have the opportunity to keep Mother Mary in their homes for a day and intercede for their families and other intentions.

We had a scheduled prayer time so that other families could join in and pray together. Every family prayed with their own personal intentions and the rosary became more lively with hymns too added.



As your family rosary becomes a habit, life's challenges can be negotiated well.

These moments made all our members happy to bring colour and décor with Mother Mary present in their homes. It also added to their delicacies served in the evening, a sign of their gratitude towards each other. May Mama Mary continue to shower her blessings on all our families and may we continue praying the rosary together to bring peace and happiness in our homes.

### Feast Day:

On 7th December 2025, St Ambrose Community celebrated the Feast of our patron saint with a Holy Eucharist at 5.30 pm followed by a get-together. On behalf of the animators in attendance, Adaline, Albert, Joe, Leena, Delina, Johnny & Deepti (Ex-animator) I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the community members for their participation, support and efforts for making the evening a memorable one.



My warmest thanks to Daniella and Deepti for compering, Dwayne for welcoming everyone. Joe for his entertaining lovely music, Johnny, Anna and Elvis for engaging us in lovely sing songs, Belinda for a beautiful prayer and Caroline for vote of thanks.

Also for innovative games and spot prizes played, making the celebration a great success! May our community always continue to grow in faith and love. May St Ambrose intercede for us all.



- **Nimia D'Costa**



## Zone 2 - Unit 6

# Epiphany Community

### Rosary - October 2025

October is the Month traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Remembering the mysteries of Christ's life and Our Lady's life, we repeat Hail Mary after Hail Mary. Indeed, the mysteries of the Holy Rosary - joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous are the mysteries of our own lives as well.



The month of October each year is instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection she gives to the church by interceding for the prayers of the faithful.

Like every year, this year too, the statue of Our Lady was taken to the homes of our community. Many members and animators gathered in homes to pray the Rosary as one family. There was much excitement in each family as this devotion meant a lot to everyone.



### Community Visit to the Pranam Mariya Exhibition Mount Mary, Bandra:

On Saturday, 22nd November 2025, our community members visited the Pranam Mariya Exhibition at Mount Mary, Bandra. We arrived at 12.00 noon for a specially arranged guided tour. The exhibition is thoughtfully designed around the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries, including the Creation of the World. Each mystery of the rosary is depicted through beautifully crafted statues, bringing

the scriptures to life. The experience is enhanced with a digital audio and video guide, offering clear and meaningful explanations. The entire tour takes approximately fifty minutes. Although videography and photography are strictly prohibited inside, the presentation itself is so engaging that one naturally remains immersed in the displays.



It was truly a lively and spiritually enriching experience, allowing us to witness the mysteries of Our Lady in a unique and memorable way. All our members thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated this exhibition. The surroundings of the building are cool, peaceful, and beautifully landscaped with trees, providing a relaxing



space where visitors can capture images. It is definitely worth visiting for people of all ages.

After the exhibition, we also visited the Mount Mary Basilica, followed by lunch, and then returned home with hearts full of joy and gratitude. I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to experience this guided exhibition.

## Feast of Christ the King - Solemn Adoration:

Like every year, half-hourly adorations were conducted by the various zones and cells of the parish. Our zone participated wholeheartedly, taking



responsibility for the readings and singing during the adoration. Everyone dedicated time for practice, which helped in conducting the service smoothly, reverently, and meaningfully.

It was encouraging to see a greater number of zonal parishioners attending this year's adoration compared to previous years. Their presence added to the solemnity and community spirit of the celebration. After the adoration, the Community gathered to take pictures at the newly inaugurated statue of Jesus Christ, making this feast day a truly memorable and well-celebrated occasion.

- CA Remita Fernandes

## Zone 3 - Unit 7

# Holy Family Community



## Children's Day:

Children's Day, a day dedicated to the happiness, dreams, and rights of every child. It is celebrated every



year on 14th November, the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, who was fondly called Chacha Nehru because of his deep love for children.

Children are the little stars who light up our lives with joy and innocence.



We as a community decided to spend time with the children of Anganwadi. It was awesome to see the

happiness and smiles on the children's faces when we visited them and interacted with them. The teachers too were very happy with our visit. We shared our token of love with the children and a sign of gratitude, they performed a lovely dance for us.

Children's Day celebration reminds us of our memories of childhood's innocence and joy.

"Childhood never lasts...."

## Advent Reflection:



We had invited Fr Reuben to our community for a teaching on the Season of Advent. He gave us a very insightful teaching with 4 Biblical personalities – Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and John the Baptist and the 4 advent attitudes – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love with Bible references, reflection and practical actions. We also celebrated his birthday as a surprise. It was an evening to cherish.

- Louiza Gomes



# Zone 5 - Unit 1

## Holy Trinity Community

### JULY 2025

#### Acceptance into First Eucharist Program:

Zidane Rohan Fonseca from our unit is going to receive his First Holy Communion. A small prayer service for Acceptance of the child into the First Eucharist Program, was conducted on 19th July at their residence.



Maria, Joan, Sheila, Finiya and Rosa represented our community. Thanks to Andrea for making a lovely card.

#### Parents & Grandparents Day



On 26th July, the Feast of Saints Joaquim & Anne was observed by the Church as Parents & Grandparents Day.

Our community decided to greet our Grandparents & Parents through social

media, each day of the week on the community whatsapp group in an incredibly special way. The youngest members of our community expressed their love through personalized video messages to the parents and grandparents in their own loving and endearing way.



Finiya, Joan, Maria, Andrea and Archana met at Joan's house and wrapped the gifts to be distributed to all the families in our community. We thank Joan for sharing her



space with us and Maria for the sandwiches!

Prayer books written by Fr Reuben were given to all the families and cards along with a soap was given only to the elderly with grandchildren.

Special thanks to Andrea & her students for preparing the hand-made cards.

We also thank Steffanie Mathews for sponsoring the prayer books written by Fr Reuben.



#### Biblical Leadership Session:

Conducted by Fr Reuben & attended by Finiya & Andrea.

### SEPTEMBER 2025

#### Nativity Novena:

Zone 5 conducted the Nativity Novena along with a short and a meaningful skit.

The following people from our unit participated in the Novena and skit:



Maria Janardhan (Writer & Director)

Joan D'Souza (Choir and Narrator)

Finiya Thomas (Actor)



The love offerings for our zone were: Toothpaste, Toothbrush & Vaseline.

### OCTOBER 2025

#### Rosary:

Throughout the month of October, our community came

together in a beautiful display of faith, unity and devotion through the month long community rosary.

Every day different families graciously opened their homes to host the rosary, welcoming neighbors, friends and parishioners to join in prayer to Our Blessed Mother Mary.

This shared journey of prayer not only deepened our spiritual connection but also strengthened the bonds within our community. As we gathered on different evenings, sharing intentions, singing hymns and praying the mysteries of the rosary, we also found time to talk, laugh and get to know one another better. What began as a simple act of devotion grew into a heartfelt experience of fellowship and unity.



Many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to welcome others into their homes and to be a part of something that felt both peaceful and uplifting. Children, adults and elders alike participated, creating a spirit of togetherness that reflected the true essence of the Christian community.

As the month ended, we were reminded of Mother Mary's loving intercession and the power of communal prayer.

May the blessings of this beautiful month continue to inspire us to pray together and to support one another in faith and love.

### **Community Rosary Event:**

On 25th October, at Manish Nagar Hall, the event conducted was a divine and spiritual experience. We hope Mumma Mary continues to pray for all of us and our families.



We sincerely thank everyone who contributed through their efforts, prayers, donations and assistance in making this event a successful one.



Flow of events:

- Prayer Song by Joan.
- Rosary by Cheryl, Dagma & Archana.
- Welcome by Finiya.
- A talk by Fr Reuben.
- Bible quiz & distribution of snacks.
- Distribution of dinner boxes.

### **Visit to the Home for the Elderly:**



Interacting with the seniors, at the Home for the Elderly, was a truly profound experience and all of us had warm memories to take back with us since the residents at the facility

were kind and showered us with their blessings.

We felt grateful for our homes and the fact that we have people/families to come back to.

We gifted essential items as well as personal care supplies for the residents at the facility. We also contributed for their dinner on the day of our visit alongwith some fruits.

We are deeply grateful to our donors/benefactors who have contributed to making this activity possible! Sincere thanks to the volunteers (Maria, Andrea, Cynthia, Sheila, Joan, Shane & Finiya) who agreed to give their time and join us for the visit.



### **Mission Sunday:**

Holy Trinity Community was able to generate Rs. 22,000/- as a part of their contribution to the Mission Sunday Mela.

### **Eucharist Centered Leadership:**

On 22nd October, session conducted by Fr Reuben was attended by Maria, Andrea & Finiya .

## NOVEMBER 2025

### **In Loving Memory of Our Dearly Departed:**



November is a special month when we remember and pray for all our loved ones who have gone before us.

We came together as a community to honour their memory and offer our prayers for their souls.



We gathered at Oshiwara Cemetery on 15th November to pray together and visit the graves and niches of our family members and friends.



We individually prayed for 150 souls of friends and family members that were shared by our community members.

It was a lovely moment of love, remembrance and togetherness as one community.

### **Prayerful Protest:**

The community members participated in the prayerful protest conducted by Good Shepherd Unit of Bombay Catholic Sabha to express their deep concern over the proposed 'Freedom of Religion' Bill.

- **Finiya Thomas**



## Zone 3 - Unit 4

# St Sebastian's Community

### **Bible based Leadership Workshop:**

Many animators attended a Bible-based Leadership Workshop by Fr Reuben Tellis, discovering key traits of



true leadership—humility, intimacy with God, strength, perseverance, obedience, compassion, delegation and justice. A meaningful song reminded us that leaders are called to give selflessly. The story of 'The Cracked Pot' and practical listening exercises inspired us greatly. The session strengthened our commitment as joyful servant-leaders.

### **Novena Skit - Preparation for the Feast of Nativity of Our Blessed Mother:**

During the Zone 3 Novena, our unit contributed to a skit

on the theme “Mary's Vigilance & Faith ignites us to live in the Light.” Two members enacted in the skit and rest of



the community members joined in prayer and fellowship, supporting this meaningful parish initiative.

### **Community Pilgrimage to Mount Mary's Basilica:**

Our community joyfully undertook a pilgrimage to Mount Mary's Basilica, beginning with 8:30 am Mass filled with Marian devotion. Members also visited the exhibition on Salvation History and took part in a Marian Quiz that fostered fellowship and learning. Thanks to Avita for the



sponsored prizes. Comfortable travel by AC bus and a shared breakfast added to the joy of the day. Despite a



brief bus breakdown, the rosary prayers and spirit of unity kept everyone uplifted, making it a truly blessed experience of faith and devotion to Our Lady.

### **Outreach to Underprivileged Children - Spark a Change:**

Our community reached out to 75 underprivileged



children at Garden No. 4, Lokhandwala, where Spark-A-Change conducts classes. Utility gift items were



distributed - 35 primary kids received a compass box, pencils, eraser, sharpener, ruler and notebooks, while 40 secondary children received the same with an added



pen. The smiles on their faces reflected the joy of giving and this was made possible through the generosity of a kind donor and the support of our community members.

### **Mission Sunday:**

Our Community Breakfast Stall was a complete sell-out, every item gone, every effort worth it! A big thank you to



Melissa, Marina, Aloma, Mabel, Allister and Percy who supported and contributed towards this noble cause. A small effort with a big heart!

Mission Sunday beautifully reflects the community spirit, where all work together with joy and teamwork. Each small effort, when joined together, creates something truly impactful - a wonderful reminder of how united hearts can make a big difference.



### **A Joyful Finale to a Month of Prayer, Unity and Community Spirit:**

Our month long rosary devotion concluded joyfully, strengthening prayer, fellowship and community unity.

We thank Melissa for leading the devotion and all families who lovingly hosted Our Lady in their homes. The



closing rosary and mass celebrated by Fr Anil Rego, reflected our theme: "Together as a community with



Mary, let us build Faith & Compassion." Over 45 people participated and our youth confidently proclaimed the



readings. A lively fellowship followed with music, games, dinner and grateful acknowledgment of all who contributed. It was a beautiful celebration of faith, service and togetherness as one family in Christ.

### A Blessed Experience with the Jubilee Cross:

Sincere gratitude to our parish for the Jubilee Cross. As Pilgrims of Hope, each family deeply cherished this sacred moment of prayer and unity in faith with the Jubilee Cross in our homes. Our special thanks to Zynidia for coordinatin across communities to ensure the Cross reached every home. May this blessed journey continue to fill every household with Peace, Hope and Grace.



### Children's Day – Love in Action:

On 14th November, as we honour Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who cherished children as the blooming roses of our nation, we celebrate every precious child in our midst. Jesus reminds us, "Let the little children come to me" - a call to love, protect and uplift them.



The community members visited to nearby slum areas on children's day and shared vada pav, bananas and chocolates with 100 children, A big thank you to the



helping hands from Shabana, Diana, Maria, Linda, Marina, Percy and for the snacks sponsored by Diana, Melissa, Maria and an anonymous donor.

A small gesture, yet filled with deep love, reminding each child that they are seen, valued and cherished. May God



bless every little one with joy, wisdom, grace and may they continue to bloom beautifully as per God's will.

- Aloma Fernandes

## Zone 3 - Unit 1

# Immaculate Conception Community



### Children's Day Celebration:

What a joyful and blessed day it was! Our Unit came alive on Sunday, 9th November, as we celebrated Children's Day with hearts full of gratitude and cheer. We began the event with a short prayer service, thanking the Lord for His marvellous graces and for the precious gift of children - the shining lights of our Church family. We also had an action song by the children thanking God.

It was followed with a special activity that connected fun with care for God's creation. The children joyfully planted Aloe vera saplings, learning about the importance of nurturing nature and the wonderful healing qualities of this humble plant. It was such a beautiful sight to see their little hands at work, planting saplings of life and love!

The celebration continued with two exciting games that were filled with laughter and friendly competition. First was the classic "Passing the Parcel", where every round brought cheer and surprises passing the sling bag. Then came a spirited Bible Quiz, where our young ones amazed everyone with their knowledge of God's Word - truly a proud moment for all!

We ended our celebration with a thanksgiving prayer, lifting our voices in gratitude for God's goodness throughout the day. Each child gave a vote of thanks appreciating the Church and animators of the community for putting up a lovely children's day program in the unit. Afterwards, everyone gathered to share delicious snacks and a joyful fellowship followed, wrapping up the event on a sweet and happy note.

It was a day filled with faith and fun - a beautiful reminder that children are indeed a blessing from the Lord, bringing joy, energy and hope to our family!

- **Mitchelle Borges**

### Rosary:

We were truly blessed to have our zonal gathering on 12th October at Rudra Gym Garden, Lokhandwala, where our entire community came together to pray the rosary in honour of Our Blessed Mother Mary.

This special evening was filled with devotion, reflection and gratitude. Our key intentions during the rosary included thanksgiving for God's countless blessings, prayers for the conversion of sinners, peace among nations, the well-being of children and youth of our country and protection for all families. Each decade was prayed with deep faith and reverence, lifting our hearts and voices to Mother Mary and asking for her intercession and motherly protection over each one of us.

The rosary was lovingly led by our animators and coordinator, who



guided everyone prayerfully through each mystery. It was heartwarming to see children, youth, adults and senior citizens actively participating all united as one big family in faith. The atmosphere was filled with a beautiful sense of peace, love and togetherness, reminding us that Mother Mary always brings her children closer to Jesus.



After the rosary, everyone shared a joyful time of fellowship. Our generous sponsors provided delicious snacks and tea, which were enjoyed by all. The smiles, laughter and conversations reflected the joy of being together as a community of faith.

We sincerely thank our coordinator and animators for their time, dedication and efforts in organizing such a

meaningful evening. Their commitment made the program smooth and prayerful. We also express our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, who supported the event through their contributions. Their generosity truly made the gathering more special and memorable.



It was indeed a beautiful and spiritually enriching experience for everyone present. Coming together in prayer to honour Mother Mary strengthened our faith and reminded us of the power of unity in prayer.

May Our Blessed Mother Mary and our Lord Jesus Christ bless our coordinator, animators, sponsors and every participant abundantly for their love, effort and devotion.

- Anita D'souza

## MILESTONES

### BAPTISMS

Date of Baptism	Date of Birth	Name	Parents
05-10-2025	23-08-2025	Meriska Gerald Sequeira	Gerald & Jennifer Sequeira
14-10-2025	16-08-2024	Wakulangwa Esmie Mwiyeriwa - Thindwa	Wanangwa & Regina Thindwa

### MARRIAGES

Date	Name
25-11-2025	Alan D'souza & Archana Jaisingh
06-12-2025	Ronald Lobo & Ashinta D'souza

### DEATHS

Date	Name	Age	Address
27-09-2025	Elvis Rosario Fernandes	54	48/A, Flat No.11, Manish Nagar, Andheri (W).
04-10-2025	Joseph Augustine Cheruvally	90	1/21, Versova View, Four Bungalows, Andheri (W).
08-10-2025	Hilda Monthi Vaz	86	Flat No.5, Sangeet, Model Town, Seven Bungalows, Andheri (W).
10-10-2025	Jerome Rusario Pereira	78	B 203, Shree Savgan CHSL, Four Bungalows, Andheri (W)
14-10-2025	Francis Vilbert Vaz	93	1401, C/2 Tower, Madhuwangodi Kamgar CHS Ltd., Indian Oil Nagar, Andheri (W)
21-10-2025	Rosaline Rodrigues	67	Apna Bazar, 32 New Indra Nagar, Indian Oil Nagar, Andheri (W).
08-11-2025	Franklin Fernandes	50	1004, A/wing, Eversun CHS Ltd., Sahakar Nagar, Andheri (W).
11-11-2025	Rajan Devikalam Johri	75	Flat 1, A Wing, Neelkamal CHS, 7 Bungalows, Andheri (W).
18-11-2025	Stephen Jack D'Souza	81	B/5, Sagar Sameep, 4 Bungalows, Andheri (W).

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